

Sanitized - Approved For Release

FOIAb3b

Affairs of State, by Stewart Alsop

CPYRIGHT **The Soviet spymasters**

WASHINGTON:

Every once in a while an American who has been recruited into a Soviet spy net gets caught—like Robert Thompson, whose peculiar story begins in this issue of *The Post*, or Sgt. Jack Dunlap, whose story was told in *The Post* last year. But little or nothing has been revealed about the professional Soviet spymasters who recruit and control the Soviet espionage networks in this country. Certain interesting facts about the Soviet espionage apparatus in the United States can now be reported.

Reporting these facts may help to even the score a bit between the new chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, Vice Adm. W. F. Raborn Jr., and his Soviet opposite number, Vladimir Semichastny, chief of the formidable KGB. In the nature of things, Semichastny has a big head start on Raborn. Semichastny, still in his early 40's, has been in the cloak-and-dagger business all of his adult life, while Raborn, a pleasant-mannered man of 59, is new to the business. But Semichastny's real advantage over Admiral Raborn lies in the difference between the closed Soviet society and the open American society.

Nothing that could conceivably embarrass the work of Semichastny's organization for foreign espionage ever appears in print in the Soviet Union. By contrast, the CIA has now become the whipping boy of a large section of the American press, while no less than four novels in which the CIA plays the role of villain have been published in the last few weeks.

Like his predecessors, Admiral Raborn is powerless to staunch the flow of facts and non-facts about the CIA. Typical of the non-facts is the notion that the CIA was principally responsible for the tragic assassination of South Vietnam's president Diem. This is a main theme of Morris West's best-selling potboiler, *The Ambassador*—and it is totally untrue.

As for the facts, which are much more damaging to intelligence operations, a choice collection is to be found in *The Invisible Government*, a less recent best-seller by David Wise and Thomas Ross. Wise and Ross are extremely competent reporters—too competent. They somehow discovered and printed, for example, the names of a number of CIA secret operatives.

For this sort of thing they would certainly have been imprisoned in England or France and summarily executed in the Soviet Union.

To even the score a bit, there follow the names of a number of the KGB's chief operatives, past and present, in the United States. The list starts with the name of Pavel Lukyanov. Mr. Lukyanov has the rank of Counselor in the Soviet Embassy. He is an unremarkable-looking man—five feet ten, gray eyes, medium build, brown hair brushed straight back. But he has a remarkable job. He is the "station chief," or No. 1 man, in the KGB's espionage apparatus in this country. The KGB station chief in Washington certainly outranks in importance every other KGB agent abroad, except possibly the station chief in Peking. As this pre-eminence suggests, Mr. Lukyanov, at 39, has had a notably successful career in his chosen field.

Mr. Lukyanov has from the start specialized exclusively in espionage against the United States. After suitable training by the KGB, he arrived in New York in 1950, at the age of 25, with his wife and small son. The KGB assigned him to a post in the United Nations Secretariat, which in the 1950's provided cover for the extremely extensive Soviet espionage apparatus in the United States.

Other high-ranking KGB men who have used UN cover include Lev Burdyukov, Sergei Antonov, and Mikhail Svirin. Burdyukov, who shared an apartment in New York with the Lukyanovs, is now KGB station chief in Canada. Antonov, another close friend of Lukyanov, is now in Moscow as chief of the whole Latin-American section of the KGB.

Lukyanov's first major promotion in the KGB hierarchy came in 1956, when he replaced Mikhail Svirin in the office of Undersecretary in the UN Secretariat. Shortly thereafter, Reino Hayhanen, an incompetent, hard-drinking Soviet spy in the Rudolf Abel ring, defected to the CIA in Paris on his way back to Moscow from New York. Hayhanen testified that Svirin gave him and other Soviet agents their espionage assignments, a duty which Lukyanov assumed when he replaced Svirin. Lukyanov must have been good at the work.



0001R000100090047-7

FOIAb3b